

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Rodeffer (US 5,507,025).

The present claimed invention provides a method and apparatus for acquiring satellite signals. When acquiring satellite signals a request to switch from a first LNB to a second LNB is received. Upon receipt of the request a switching from the first LNB to the second LNB is preformed. A frequency offset value associated with the second LNB is recalled from memory. The frequency is tuned to receive a selected channel with a tuner using the frequency offset value. Once the selected channel is received the tuner is locked to the second LNB. Independent claims 1 and 8 contain similar limitations to those discussed above.

“When a particular channel is selected, a particular LNB is activated and the table of offset vales is consulted. The offset value for the LNB and channel is used to tune the receiver to a frequency that is appropriate for receiving the selected channel” (page 3, lines 24-26). Though desired frequency ranges are known, a frequency drift makes it necessary to search to lock onto the signal before operation. By compensating for the frequency drift we can avoid the process of having to search to lock onto the signal. Drift tables keep track of the most current values of the frequency drift for each LNB. “The microprocessor 108 uses drift tables 240 that are stored in memory to derive the frequency offset compensation [, thus]...a drift table is created for each LNB [to keep track of the most current frequency offset]” (page 7, lines 33-35).

Rodeffer discloses a method and apparatus for satellite receivers with variable pre-detection bandwidths. The satellite receiver has first and second stages that are serially coupled so that an output of the first stage feeds into an input of the second

stage. Each of the first and second stages includes a tunable oscillator for providing a reference frequency.

It is contended in the office action that Rodeffer teaches a frequency offset value associated with each LNB. However, contrary to this contention Rodeffer teaches the "removal of a portion of either the left or right skirt of the signal 501 with respect to the fixed bandwidth 502" (Col 9, lines 11-12). This removal allows "local oscillator 408 [to be] tuned [so that] ... the filtered second IF signal 801 resembles a signal provided by a single bandpass filter" (Col 9, lines 59-62). The process of using the oscillator to remove left and right skirts of a frequency range is only used to change the symmetrical width of the frequency range and does not change the frequency which the signal is centered. The removal of left and right skirts as preformed in Rodeffer is unrelated to the frequency offset function of the present invention. Rodeffer neither disclose nor suggest "recalling from memory a frequency offset value associated with said second LNB" as in the present invention. Rodeffer also neither discloses nor suggests "tuning a frequency for receiving a selected channel with a tuner using the frequency offset value" as in the present invention. In fact, unlike the present invention, Rodeffer is not at all concerned with compensating for frequency drift.

As claims 2-7 and 9-11 are dependant on claims 1 and 8 respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable. In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are also allowable.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Rodeffer showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are not anticipated by Rodeffer. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that the all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be

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withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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